IN THE CLAIMS

MARKUP OF REISSUE CLAIMS IN ACCORDANCE WITH

37 C.F.R. § 1.173 AND MPEP 1453

1.   (Amended)   A graphic user interface method for defining a database query [definition and] output representation operation [parameters] parameter [of a database], comprising the steps of:

graphically representing [a query definition or] an output representation operation of a database operation on a [the] data set, said graphic representation having a graded representation portion;

receiving from the user a manipulation of the grade of the graded representation portion; [and]

translating the manipulation of the graded representation into a database [query definition or output representation] operation parameter [for the database]; and

receiving [the] an output database set from the database in accordance with the database [query definition of output representation] operation parameter, a relative arrangement of members of the output database set being responsive to manipulation of said graded representation portion by the user.

2.   (Original)   The method according to claim 1, wherein said data set comprises free form text.

3.   (Amended)   The method according to claim 1, wherein said user inputs a

database query comprising [database operation parameters comprise] Boolean search parameters.

4.   (Original)   The method according to claim 1, wherein said graphic representation comprises a bulls'-eye.

5.   (Original)   The method according to claim 1, wherein said graphic representation comprises a pyramid.

6.   (Original)   The method according to claim 1, wherein said manipulation comprises a gesture.

7.   (Original)   The method according to claim 1, wherein said manipulation comprises selecting a start position within the graded representation portion and subsequently displacing a graphic cursor with respect thereto.

8.   (Amended)   The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of receiving a [wherein said] database operation [parameters comprise] parameter comprising at least one numerical operator defining an expansiveness of a set inclusion property.

9.   (Original)   The method according to claim 1, wherein said database operation parameter comprises a statistical parameter.

10.   (Original)   The method according to claim 1, wherein said database operation

parameter modifies a presentation of results of a Boolean search expression.

11. (Amended) The method according to claim 1, <u>further comprising the step of</u> <u>receiving a</u> [wherein said] database operation parameter <u>through manipulation of a graded</u> <u>representation portion, which</u> modifies a set inclusion property of a Boolean search expression.

12. (Amended) The method according to claim 1, <u>further comprising the step of</u> <u>receiving a</u> [wherein said] database operation parameter <u>through manipulation of a graded</u> <u>representation portion, which modifies</u> [comprises] a non-Boolean search parameter <u>of the</u> <u>database</u>.

13. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the user manipulation comprises a gesture for affecting a relative size, shape or position of the graded representation portion.

14. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the database operation parameter comprises an output ranking.

15. (Amended) The method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of receiving a further database operation parameter from the user <u>through manipulation of a graded</u> <u>representation portion</u>, the database operation parameter and further database operation parameter being selected from one or more of the group consisting of a set inclusion property and a set ranking property<u>, which together determine and arrange the output set</u>.

16.　　(Amended)　　The method according to claim 1, wherein a set inclusion criterion of the output database set [resulting from evaluation of the database operation parameter] is based on an intrinsic characteristic of the elements of the database, and a ranking of members included [elements] in [an] the output set is based on a characteristic extrinsic to the [elements] members of the output set [database].

17.　　(Amended)　　The method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

receiving [evaluating the] an database operation parameter to [produce an] define the output set;

representing the output database set as a second graphic representation having a graded representation portion;

receiving from the user a manipulation of [a graded of] the graded representation portion of the second graphic representation; and

translating the manipulation of the graded representation of the second graphic representation into a second database operation parameter for operation on the output set.

18.　　(Original)　　The method according to claim 1, wherein said graphically representing step is adaptive to a style of the user.

19.　　(Original)　　The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of altering the functioning of the graphic user interface based on preferences of the user, the preference being derived from monitoring the past activities of the user.

20.   (Original)   The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of transmitting the database operation parameter through a computer network to a remote database server.

21.   (Amended)   The method according to claim 1, wherein:

said graded representation portion comprises at least one graphic control having a [liner] linear depiction; and

said manipulation comprises a movement of a graphic element along the [liner] linear depiction.

22.   (Amended)   The method according to claim 1, wherein:

said graded representation portion comprises a plurality of graphic controls, arranged in an array and each having a [liner] linear depiction; and

said manipulation comprises a movement of a graphic element along the [liner] linear depictions.

23.   (Amended)   The method according to claim 1, wherein the database [contains] membership comprises a set of referential data records, each having an identifier, and content information. [relating to the content of the database and identifiers of a subset of] at least a portion of said set of referential data records being referenced by other data records [the referential data records], further comprising the [steps] step of sorting identifiers of the [subset] data records included as members of the output set based on a primary search criterion and an

analysis of a relation of references of the database.

24.   A computer readable medium having therein computer instructions for controlling a computer to perform the method of claim 1.

25.   (Thrice Amended)   A method for using a graphic user interface, comprising:

receiving through the graphic user interface, a query and a signal adapted to control an output arrangement criterion by graphically manipulating at least one graded representation portion;

transmitting electronic data representing the query and the manipulation of the graded representation portion to an automated query response system; and

receiving a query response set from the automated query response system, comprising a plurality of items in dependence on the query and having a relative arrangement varying in dependence on the output arrangement criterion derived from the graphic manipulation of the at least one graded representation portion of the output criterion.

26.   (Amended)   The method according to claim 25, wherein the graded representation portion comprises a scale, wherein a user selects a desired quantitative value based on a manipulation of the scale.

27.   The method according to claim 25, wherein the automated query response system comprises a search engine.

28.   The method according to claim 25, wherein the electronic data is transmitted over the Internet.

29.   The method according to claim 25, wherein the output criterion comprises a sort criterion.

30.   The method according to claim 25, wherein the output criterion comprises a ranking criterion.

31.   (Amended)   The method according to claim 25, wherein the graded representation portion comprises both an output arrangement criterion and a quantitative modifier for a semantic query.

32.   The method according to claim 25, wherein the automated query response system operates on data records comprising records having links to other data records or records which are linked to by other data records, a ranking of data records represented in the response being dependent on the links to or from other data records.

33.   (Twice Amended)   A computer readable physical medium having therein computer instructions for controlling a computer to perform the method of claim 25.

Claims 34-39. (Cancelled)

40. (Thrice Amended) A graphic user interface method for defining database query definition and output representation operation parameters of a database, comprising:

graphically representing a predefined icon of the graphic user interface for defining an output representation operation on the data set, said icon having a graded representation portion;

receiving from the user a manipulation of the grade of the graded representation portion; and

translating the manipulation of the graded representation portion into a database output representation operation parameter for the database; and

receiving the output database set in accordance with the output representation operation parameter,

wherein

said output receiving receives the output database set in accordance with the output representation operation parameter, and

an arrangement of members of the output set is dependent on said database output representation operation parameter.

41. (Thrice Amended) The graphic user interface method according to claim 40, wherein:

a plurality of predefined icons, each representing a respective output representation operation on the data set are provided;

said manipulation receiving receives from the user a manipulation of the grade of a plurality of graded representation portions;

said translating translates the manipulation of the graded representation portions into a

plurality of database output representation operation parameters for the database;

said output receiving receives the output database set in accordance with the output representation operation parameters, and

an arrangement of members of the output set is dependent on said plurality of database output representation operation parameters.

42.   (Amended)   A graphic user interface method for defining database query definition and output representation operation parameters of a database, comprising:

graphically representing an output representation operation on the data set, said graphic representation having a plurality of graded representation portions;

receiving from the user a manipulation of the grade of a plurality of graded representation portions;

translating the manipulation of the graded representations into a plurality of database output representation operation parameters for the database;

receiving the output database set in accordance with the output representation operation parameters; and

arranging members of the output set in dependence on said plurality of database output representation operation parameters.

43.   (Twice Amended)   A method for using a graphic user interface, comprising:

defining a query;

receiving from the user, through a pointing device of a graphic user interface, at least one signal relating to a manipulation of a grade of at least one graded representation portion of a

desired output arrangement;

transmitting electronic data representing the manipulation of the grade of the at least one graded representation portion to an automated query response system; and

receiving a response from the automated query response system, comprising a plurality of items arranged relative to each other in dependence on the manipulation of the grade of the at least one graded representation portion and the defined query.

44.   (Amended)   The method according to claim 43, wherein the graded representation portion comprises a plurality of multivalued graphic representations, each being separately manipulated through the pointing device by the user.

45.   (Twice Amended)   A method for using a graphic user interface, comprising:

defining a query;

receiving, through a graphic user interface, a signal relating to a manipulation of a grade value represented by at least one graded representation portion having at least three states, representing a desired output arrangement;

transmitting electronic data representing the manipulation of the grade value to an automated query response system; and

receiving a response from the automated query response system, comprising a plurality of items responsive to the defined query arranged in dependence on the output arrangement criterion.

46.   (Amended)   The method according to claim 45, wherein the signal received

through the graphic user interface relates to a separate manipulation of a grade value represented by a plurality of graded representation portions.

      47.   (Amended)   The method according to claim 25, wherein the at least one graded representation portion comprises a plurality of quantitative graphic representations, each being separately graphically manipulated by the user.